

## INQUIRY INTO ROAD TOLLING REGIMES

**Organisation:** Transurban-WestConnex

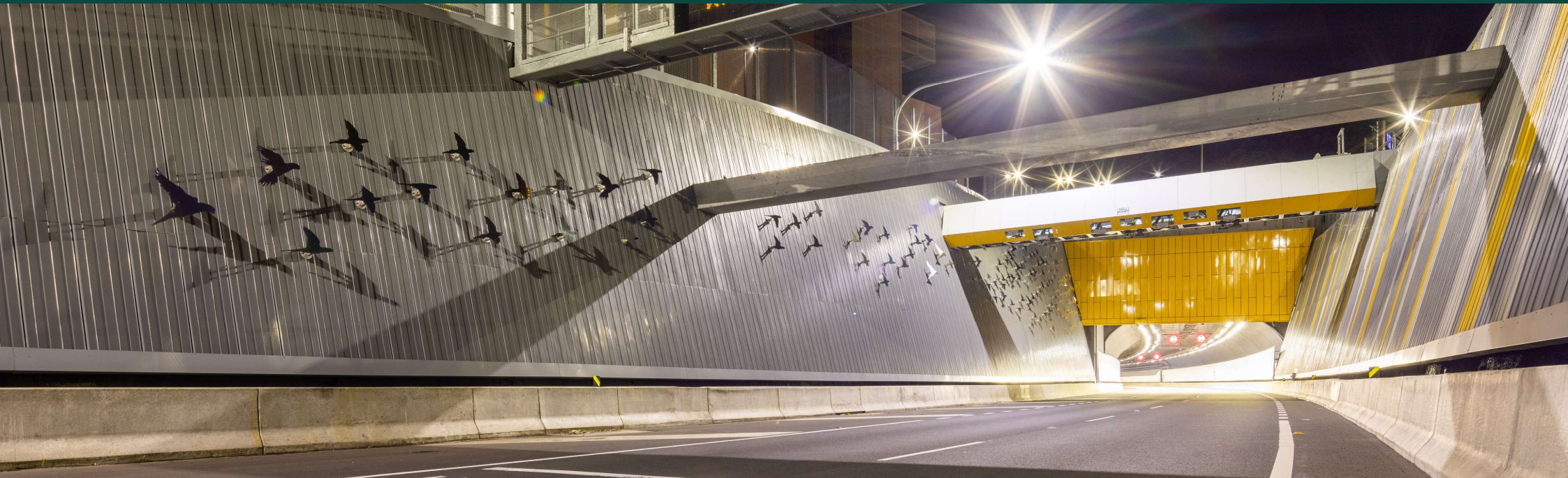
**Date Received:** 25 May 2022

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# NorthConnex Tour

NSW Inquiry into Road Tolling Regimes

25 May 2022



## NorthConnex Facts

- The **\$3 billion NorthConnex** is Australia's deepest tunnel, up to 90m below ground, and one of the longest at 9km between the M1 at Wahroonga and M2 at West Pennant Hills.
- Opened on **31 October 2020** with a concession to June 2048.
- 80km/h speed limit.
- Tunnels wide enough for three lane capacity in each direction (currently operating as two).
- A **5.1 metre tunnel height** clearance making it one of the tallest tunnels in Australia, reducing the likelihood of incidents with over-height vehicles.
- The first transport project from the NSW Government's Unsolicited Proposals process, an example of governments and the private sector working to fast-track a project. Delivery of NorthConnex was accelerated by **more than a decade** using this model.
- A smoother and flatter road gradient for trucks and freight, compared with the sharp corners and hills on Pennant Hills Road, resulting in better fuel efficiency, reduced emissions and less need for lane changing for motorists.



Above: Daily Telegraph, 24 March 2022

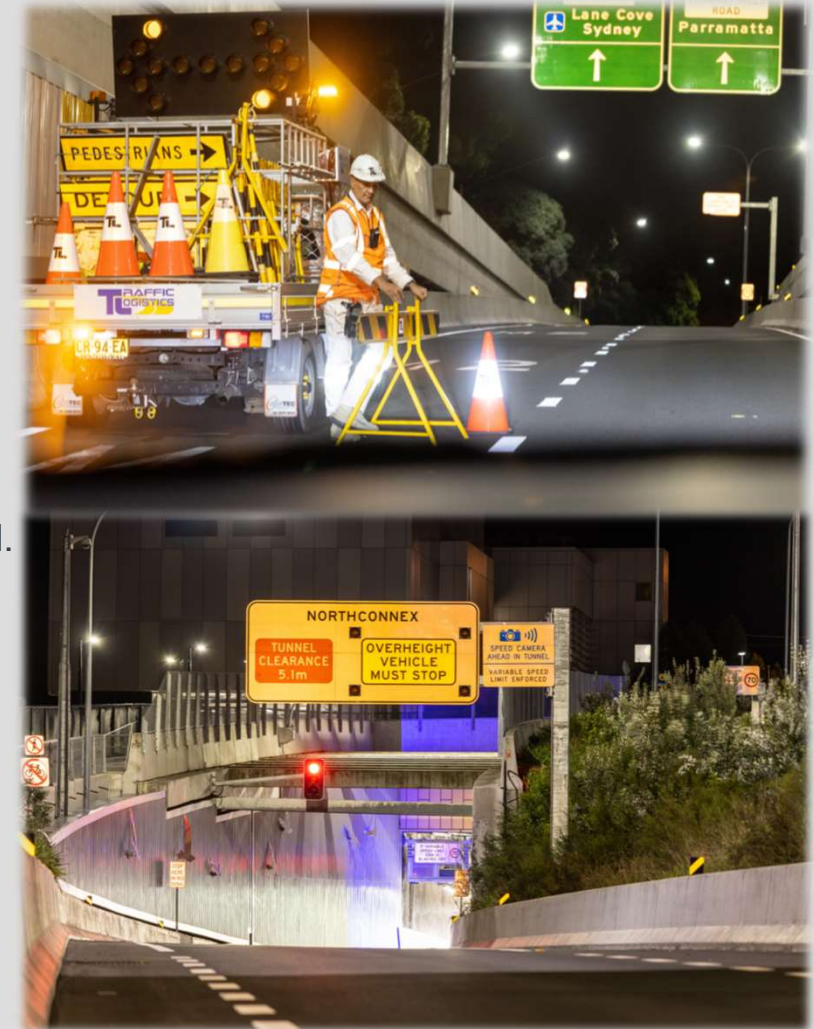
## NorthConnex Facts Continued

- An average of **37,000 vehicles a day** used NorthConnex in the March 2022 quarter, including more than 6,000 heavy vehicles.
- On track to be powered almost **100 per cent** by renewables.
- There are 142 roof-mounted jet fans, 5,500 LED lights, 850 CCTV cameras and 377 electronic signs.
- A total LED light solution, reducing carbon emissions by an estimated 83,000 tonnes over the life of the tunnels
- There are **five light installations**, three white or blue backlit forest silhouettes in the northbound tunnel, and starry skies and speed lines heading south, to keep drivers alert and engaged.
- More than **17,000 people** involved throughout construction, including more than 1,500 workers from the Central Coast. Around 300 businesses from the Western Sydney area contributed to the project.
- There are more than 4km of new and improved cycling routes delivering safer, more connected riding around NorthConnex.
- The NorthConnex Training Hub ran more than 12,700 training sessions, equivalent to more than 87,000 hours of training.
- The training hub was part of a \$10 million investment in training across the entire NorthConnex project.



## NorthConnex Facts Continued

- Motorists can now travel around **1,000km from Newcastle to Melbourne without a single set of traffic lights**, bypassing 21 sets of traffic lights along Pennant Hills Road, and 40 sets on the Pacific Highway.
- The number of crashes on Pennant Hills Road between the M1 and M2 has **more than halved**, and near misses have also reduced by 65 per cent in peak periods.
- A one-way trip on Pennant Hills Road is now 33 per cent faster – with more than **6,000 heavy vehicles a day** moved into the tunnel and away from local streets.
- Air quality modelling also predicts that NorthConnex will improve air quality along Pennant Hills Road by up to 38 per cent with fewer trucks on the road.
- More than one million cubic metres of excavated shale and sandstone material from tunnelling was used to fill the former Hornsby Quarry to transform the site into a \$50 million community recreation facility described as the “Centennial Park of the north”.
- Tolls are \$8.56 (Class A) or \$25.67 (Class B) and escalate quarterly by the greater of quarterly CPI or 1 per cent.
- A partnership between the Federal and NSW governments, TfNSW, Transurban and its Westlink M7 partners. The ownership is 50% Transurban, 25% CPP Investments and 25% QIC Limited.



## Award-winning technology



Awarded **Leading Infrastructure Sustainability** rating by the Infrastructure Sustainability Council



Received a Highly Commended Award for **Environmental Excellence** from the International Erosion Control Association Australasia

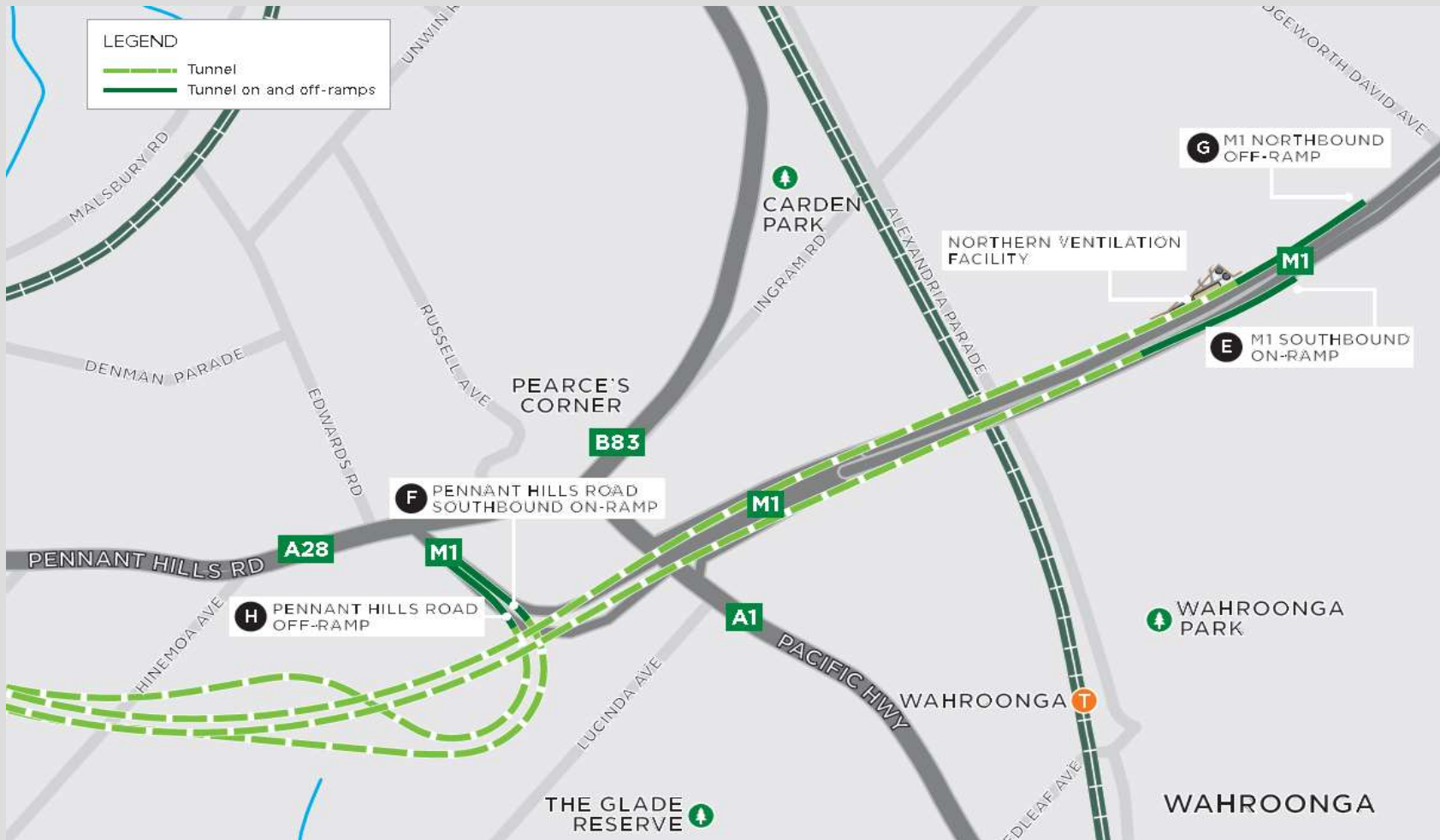


Received a Gold International Green Apple Award for **Environmental Best Practice** from the Green Organisation



In an Australian first, the tunnels feature **innovative lighting displays** to keep drivers alert and focused. The lighting is the result of research conducted in partnership with the University of NSW, Austroads and the project sponsors TfNSW and the Federal Government. The lights received an **Excellence Award** at the International Association of Lighting Designers Awards in Chicago in 2021.

# NorthConnex at Wahroonga



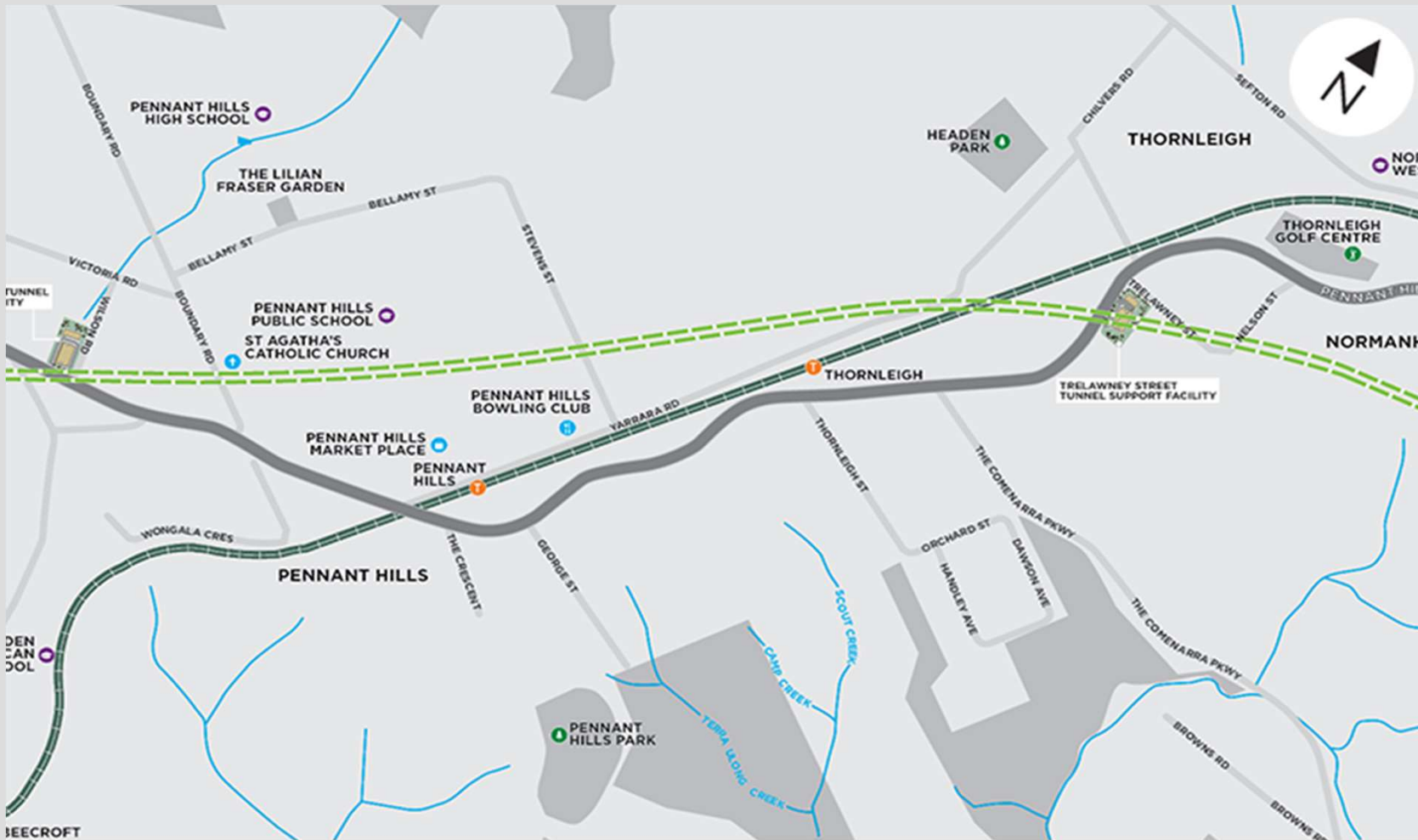
Up to **15 mins** travel time saving

Up to **21** traffic lights bypassed

Return **local streets** to local communities

Better and more **reliable** trips for people, businesses and freight

# Along the NorthConnex tunnel



On average  
**6,000**  
trucks off Pennant  
Hills Road

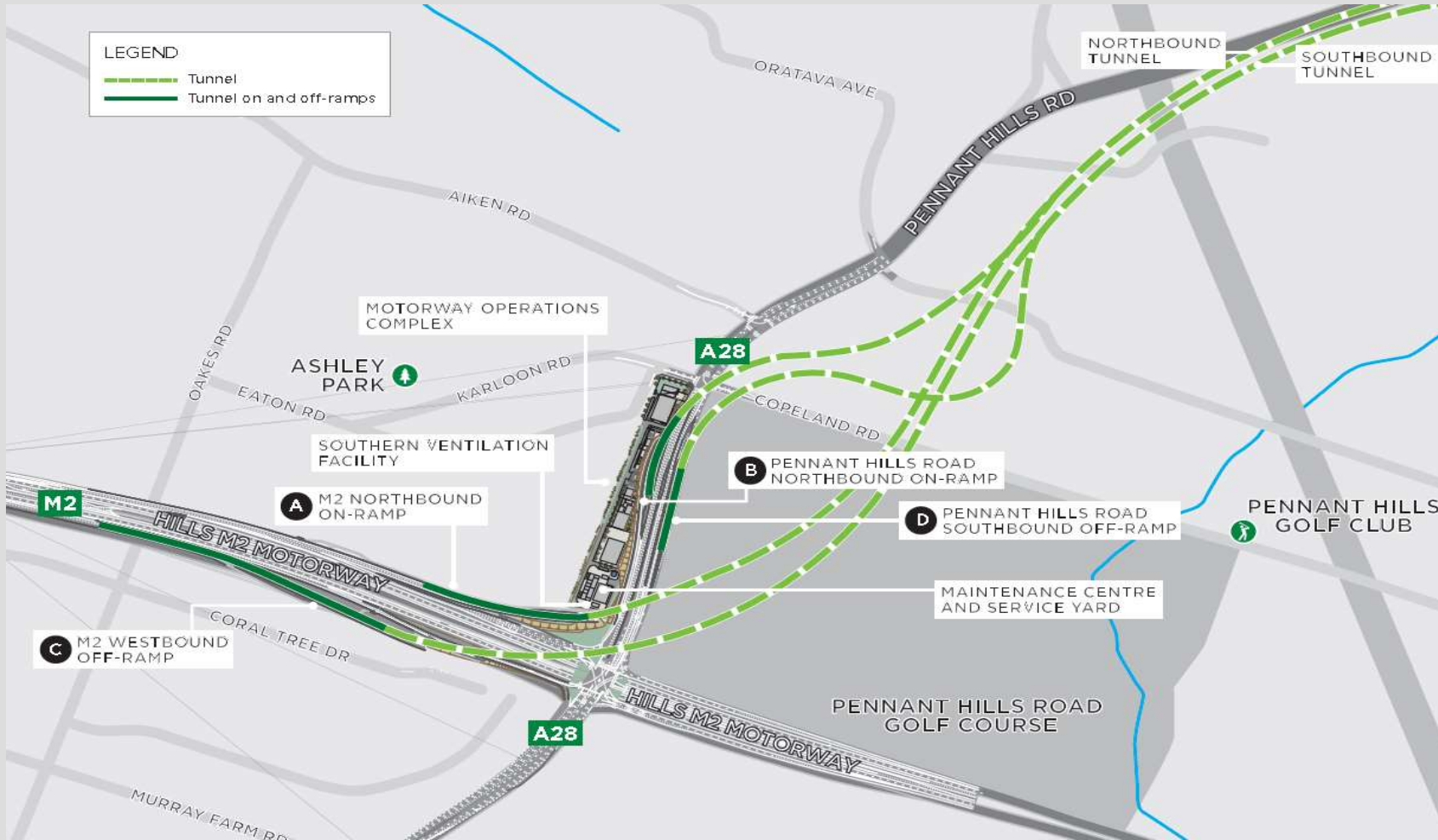
Avoid  
**40 sets**   
of traffic lights  
on the Pacific Highway  
to the Sydney CBD

**NO**   
traffic lights  
between Newcastle  
and Melbourne

Crashes on Pennant  
Hills Road more than  
**halved**  
between M1 and M2



# NorthConnex at West Pennant Hills



**65%** reduction in near misses and crashes per day

**Sludge recycled** in 6 months collected 36,000 kgs

**33%** faster traffic in the afternoon peak on Pennant Hills Road

## Testimonials

### **Richie Pankhurst, truck driver for SRH Milk Haulage:**

“It’s magical, I’ve been driving trucks since 1978 and reckon NorthConnex is the single best piece of infrastructure that we have seen in Sydney for years.

“I also use the M2 and M7, and it means I can do more trips transporting milk from Newcastle to Melbourne, and across to Lidcombe, Penrith and other places.

“The reduced stress is the biggest bit. We’re saving around 15-20 minutes each way on a good run, and half an hour or more in peak. There are no hills, we’re saving petrol, it’s a smooth run cruising on the one speed. The lighting is also unreal, and other truck drivers heading between Queensland and Melbourne are saying the same thing.”



### **Steve Aisbett, Director at Thornleigh Golf Driving Range, located on Pennant Hills Road:**

“NorthConnex has helped our business enormously. Between 3-6pm on Monday to Friday nights were really slow because of the traffic gridlock. Business has now picked up by 30 per cent and it’s a lot quieter and cleaner without the trucks and the diesel dust they created. Customers coming from nearby suburbs like Beecroft or Carlingford can now reach us in 10 minutes rather than half an hour.”

Thank you for visiting NorthConnex

